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LONDON LETTER

By Gregory MacDonald

Last week there were varied undertones in London life to relieve the strain of international politics. An unusually early Spring has already given days and even nights of a temperature equalling the mean temperature of an English June. The change is welcome after a long period in which bad weather coincided with bad news. The Grand National, less famous only than the Derby, was run in bright sunshine, giving victory for the second time in succession to Reynoldstown after an exciting race in which the field was led by an outsider who ran into the crowd with a broken bridle-buckle when the bookies were preparing to pay out on him.

The journey of the new liner, *Queen Mary*, down the Clyde and to Southampton was also regarded as a national event. At present she is undergoing the last preparations to fit her for the Atlantic service, and huge crowds of sightseers are visiting Southampton. Among experts there is, however, a considerable controversy as to her value except as a symbol of returning prosperity in times of depression. It is pointed out that the *Queen Mary* can be profitable only if accompanied by a sister ship, the two of them maintaining a weekly shuttle service across the Atlantic (the same conditions apply to the *Normandie*) and even then a full restoration of the rich American tourist traffic - such as existed when the liner was planned - is necessary to make her profitable. Meanwhile the beautiful lines of the ship excite the pride of engineers, and for the people at large her history is closely connected with that of the nation and of the Royal House.

The last, and perhaps not least important undertone was the celebration of Mr. Pickwick, who became as much fact as fiction for the world at large just one hundred years ago. In a year of crisis, after twenty-two

(Continued on page 6, col. 2)

POLISH FOREIGN TRADE IN 1935

The general improvement in the world economic situation has not found, however, a corresponding reflection in the international trade turnover. The general index of the foreign trade of the world, computed by the Economic Bureau of the League of Nations, stood in December, 1935, at 38 per cent. the pre-depression period, or about the same as in 1934. Polish foreign trade has been developing as follows (in millions of zł)

Year	Total Turn-over	Imports	Exports	Favourable Balance
1933	1786	827	827	132
1934	1774	798	799	177
1935	1785	859	859	65

The 1935 results, though still satisfactory, have not been as favorable as might be desired. The increased imports in the face of decreasing exports have reduced the favorable balance by Zł. 110,000,000 as compared with the previous year. The decrease of Polish exports in 1935 was caused by further import restrictions imposed by a number of foreign countries, not excluding even the gold standard countries. Of the total Polish foreign trade turnover, European countries accounted for 66 per cent. of imports into Poland and 84 per cent. of Polish exports.

In the import group, Germany occupied the first place with 124,000,000 zł. or 14.4 per cent. as compared with 13½ per cent. a year ago, closely followed by the U. S. A. with 123,901,000 zł. or 14.4 per cent., against 15.2 per cent. last year. Next came Great Britain with 13.6 per cent. against 10.8 per cent. which increase is attributed to the Anglo-Polish Commercial Treaty. France came with 5 per cent.

In the export group, Great Britain came first with 19.6 per cent. or Zł. 181,437,000, followed by Germany with Zł. 136,630,000 or 14.8 per cent. and Austria with Zł. 59,390,000 or 6.2 per cent., Belgium with 6.2 per cent. the U. S. A. occupying seventh place with Zł. 43,277,000 or 4.7 per cent.

Despite the general showing, certain favorable trends noticeable for the last few years have likewise continued during 1935. During the period 1929-1935 the import of foreign manufactured merchandise decreased from 48.8 per cent. to 37.3 per cent. whereas the importation of raw materials and semi-manufactured merchandise has increased from 31.8 per cent. to 51.1 per cent. On the other hand, Polish exports of manufactured merchandise increased from 19.6 per cent. to 22.6 per cent. whereas the export of raw materials decreased from 47 per cent. to 45 per cent. pointing towards further industrialization of the country well as its economic emancipation.

The changes which had taken place in 1935 trade figures were caused by various international factors hampering international exchange of goods, as well as the increasing competition on the part of countries with depreciated currencies against the gold standard countries, including Poland.

Thus Polish mineral exports, chiefly coal, were reduced by Zł. 36,000,000 on account of import restrictions. Similar reductions were noticeable in the lumber and metal exports, the latter on account of reduced purchases by the U. S. S. R.

In Polish imports for 1935, the greatest increase was shown in the group of metals and machineries, pointing to increasing investments in fixed assets and further stimulation in the country's production.

During 1935, a number of trade agreements were concluded with foreign countries, with a view to overcoming existing trade barriers and foreign exchange restrictions. The most important was the Anglo-Polish Trade Agreement of February 27, 1935, which facilitates exportation of Polish agricultural produce to England as well as the importation of English manufactured goods, textiles, chemicals and automobiles into Poland. Simultaneously the above agreement was strengthened by several private agree-

(Continued on page 7, col. 1)

IN BRIEF

Ninety-five Government enterprises have been divided into eleven groups by the Commission appointed to study the effects of Government participation in commercial affairs on private business. Three sessions of the Commission have been held, and an official statement is expected shortly.

* * *

The Ministry of Interior has issued instructions to the competent authorities that all building permits must be approved with as much haste as consistent with public safety. It was pointed out that unnecessary delay in granting these permits sometimes caused material loss, and even put off the contemplated construction until the next building season.

* * *

A few months ago an English philatelist, Joseph Stanley, came to Warsaw and advertised that he was prepared to buy stamps from all comers. Józef Karpiński, a clerk in the Treasury, offered a stamp of Victoria having the plate number 77, and valued in catalogues at 30 thousand francs. After suitable bargaining, Mr. Stanley purchased the stamp for 425 zł. A few days after he went to the police, charging that he had been cheated, as closer examination disclosed that a "1" had been erased, and the plate number had been 177. A court case followed, and Karpiński was acquitted as it was disclosed that he had known nothing of the falsification, and, further, that Stanley was a well known expert, quite able to have found out the fault upon first examination.

* * *

Captain Burzyński, piloting the free balloon *Warszawa II*, broke the world's record for height when he ascended 10,000 metres.

* * *

Over sixty communists were arrested by the police on March 30. Over one hundred raids were carried out, and many papers, pamphlets, instructions, and even over two thousand zlotys of party funds were confiscated. It is understood that the preparations for this liquidation have been going on for several months.

* * *

Dr. Stefan Litauer, PAT correspondent in London, has been elected president of the Foreign Press Association.

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FOREIGN TRADE

(Continued from page 1. col. 3)

ments among important Anglo-Polish industrial groups regulating the exportation of certain products into common foreign markets, as was the case with coal.

Second in importance was the German-Polish Agreement signed at the end of November 1935. It provides for the general clearing of all transactions between Germany and Poland, thus assuring the payment for Polish exports and other services. In addition agreements were concluded with Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Finland, Spain, Norway, Hungary and Belgium. Further negotiations are being carried on with the U. S. S. R., Sweden, Holland, Estonia and Rumania.

The above agreements provide for the quota system regulating imports and exports of a given group of goods. In addition Polish foreign trade had to rely on a number of compensation arrangements, limiting Polish exports to a like amount of imports from a given foreign country. This, in turn, in many instances, was supplemented by clearing arrangements of one sort or another.

In the field of compensation and clearing, the most important rôle is played by the Polish Compensation Bureau, which had for 1935 the total turnover of 81,000,000 zł. as against 62,000,000 zł. a year ago. Of the first mentioned figure, imports accounted for 39,000,000 zł., and exports for 42,000,000 zł.

The activities of the Polish port, Gdynia, underwent further development. Including Danzig, the total turnover in 1935 was 13,000,000 tons, of which 7.6 millions went through Gdynia. The Polish ports handled 73½ per cent. of the total tonnage of the Polish foreign trade, and 62.5 percent. of the total value of the imported and exported goods.

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THE SOVIET ARCTIC, THE NEW FRONTIER

By Dr. Ruth Gruber

"You are just around the world from New York," the teacher in the wooden Tungus-Evenki schoolhouse told me as he turned a small globe. The seaplane which had brought me to this settlement near Turukhans lay resting in the Yenisei, while I listened to the natives speak of the "new life" of education and hospitalization which had left their superstitions in the past.

Looking toward America, these small Asiatic men and women, cheerful, hospitable and avidly curious, begged for stories of New York subways, of giant dams, of Indians and Eskimos with whom they compared themselves.

But comparisons between their land and America had implications whose depth they could hardly divine, horizons which left them breathless. The two continents had already been linked by radio and planes. Now Arctic Siberia seemed to anticipate the advancing spirit of America. Radio masts, airplane bases and steam whistles were setting the tempo for a modern metropolis. New York, which lay across the pole, less than one day's flight away, was casting its shadow, sketching in the Eurasian air suspension bridges, steel skyscrapers, streets coming to life with the thousand cacaphonic cries of a city day.

Yet around us the great forest was silent and the day calm and warm as such an Arctic day can be. Thousands of reindeer were pasturing on moss in a reindeer collective. Dark, lank-haired women milked the does, while children, laughing gayly, were herding the deer, some of whose antlers had been clipped to prevent their butting. Even the deer recalled America; in 1901 the U. S. Government had bought and sent to Alaska hundreds of these Tungus reindeer whose descendants provide Arctic America with one of its most lucrative industries.

ARE BEING EDUCATED

Once illiterate, demoralized by alcohol brought north by white traders, and burdened by heavy taxes collected for their right to hunt and fish, these natives now spoke proudly of culture and equality. The twenty-six northern tribes who inhabit more than five million square miles of forest-taiga, steppes and tundra around the Arctic Circle are rapidly being educated. Written languages have been created for them in phonetic Latin script. Novels, textbooks, illustrated children's adventure stories of polar bears and fur-clad heroes are being printed in Leningrad and brought to the Arctic by ships and planes. The Chukchis in Northeastern Siberia, a people believed to be related to the American Indians and Eskimos, started a few weeks ago to print their own newspa-

per, publishing it in Wellen and distributing it by dog sledge to remote sections of the region.

With warm hospitality, the natives invited me into their homes to drink tea and see how they were now living. We entered one of the low wooden dwellings of a reindeer-breeder whose furs were strung around the house to dry. We walked through the outer room where a huge pot of cabbage soup was boiling on a white concrete oven built clear to the roof. The second room, serving as a combined living and sleeping room, was lined with beds, a table in the center and a simple chair such as a child would build. The chair was drawn for me while the others stood against the wall watching curiously.

"Look," the master of the house showed me with pride, "we have a clock and a mirror and a portable phonograph. A few years ago we had only a tent made from reindeer skins. Now we have a house with a stove and beds and even a sewing-machine." — Americanization, a post-war phenomenon of Europe, now invades the Arctic.

The women of the household smoked pipes and talked of the changes which had been wrought in their lives in the last few years. One of the women, with a broad Mongolian face, work-worn and heavily lined, put her pipe aside, pulled out a little stool and sat down to tell me her story, a typical one of the rise of northern women from the soil.

"For forty-five years," she said, "I lived in the Siberian plains, traveling with my family, caring for my husband, my household. I knew how to wash and cook and feed our dogs, but I knew nothing of reading or writing, of a world outside the tundra. Then about fifteen years ago, education came to the north. Teachers came from Moscow and cities in southern Siberia, opening schools on the Yenisei. I heard about these schools, learned what they did, and that they were free for everyone."

"I said to my husband; I want to go; I want to learn to read and write."

"But he only beat me. You're an old woman. You don't have to know these things."

"I took my son and fled. We went to the village and were taken warmly into the school. I blushed the first time I wrote my name. It looked like a tango."

FOUND A NEW LIFE.

"A new life began for me. For the first time in my life, I spoke through a telephone, wondering how my voice could travel across miles of wire. For the first time I listened to a piano. I could hardly grasp that such sounds

could come from a box that man had made."

When she finished her schooling, she flew back in a government airplane to her husband and became the first teacher of her tribe. She brushed back the bandanna that covered her gray hair. "See," she said, "today I am wearing shoes, and a blouse and a skirt. I am like the pictures of the women I see in the books from Moscow."

We left the house and walked to the little schoolhouse where the children sat learning of the world beyond the Arctic. On the wall behind them hung the inevitable map, to give them perspective, to show them their place in the sun. Like children in any American school some of the little Tungus-Evenki pupils listened with bright-eyed interest, some nudged their neighbors mischievously, and others stared out of the window lost in a Siberian daydream.

From the schoolhouse we went to the hospital where a woman doctor from Leningrad was examining the throats of some Tungus-Evenki lumbermen and housewives. Hardy, able to bear the hardships of the most rigorous weather, sleeping nude beneath an open winter sky with a log fire burning beside them, or in a tent heated with a blubber torch, these northern peoples fall ready victims to the diseases brought north by civilization. Smallpox, measles and social diseases take a heavy toll. The doctor showed me the preventives she had brought with her, the vaccines and drugs which stocked the little wooden hospital.

Shamanism, or the "Black Religion" their mythological nature worships, is rapidly dying. Trained teachers and physicians are replacing the once omnipotent witch-doctor. A special institute has been created in Leningrad, the Institute of Northern Peoples, to which the most promising young men and women of each tribe are sent. Here the importance of educational environment reaches a significant climax. Women, who a few years ago accepted the chants and voodooism of medicine-men, are now flocking to the same fields to which women have turned in America — teaching and social work. And the men, bronze-skinned, with slanting Asiatic eyes, study law, medicine, farming, economics and political science. After their four-year course in Leningrad, they return to their native villages to become the new leaders of their tribes, carrying culture to the remote plains and people of the Arctic.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1936

Art, Music, Literature

ADAM DOŁŻYCKI'S JUBILEE.

Last week the Warsaw Opera celebrated the silver jubilee of the well known conductor, Adam Dołżycki, one of the most tireless workers for the Warsaw Opera. A conductor is, as it were, the mainspring of a performance. On his creative initiative and understanding of the musical and artistic sense of the work many a time depends the whole splendour and value of an operatic performance. For it is he who gives it its mood and expression. So it follows that if a good or even passable opera company directed by a true master of the baton may attain exemplary results, by the same rule even the most accomplished soloists without a good conductor may sing with great effect and beauty but as a whole their performance will always lack that finished excellence that only a good conductor can give. The applause in the Opera usually goes to the singers, but the true music lover is always able to distinguish the merits in the conductor's work.

Adam Dołżycki, whose name has for a number of years been inseparably linked with the *Teatr Wielki* in Warsaw, is just such a conductor by instinct and, at the same time, an artist of the finest sensibility and intelligence. When he takes his stand on the podium and has the opportunity to express his high artistic aspirations, we may always be sure that the Opera under his directing will always have its true sense made readily understandable, its colour and its full musical expressiveness. His untamed

temperament as a conductor, his sensitive musical intuition, his ability to understand every composer and his style place Dołżycki among the very first masters of the baton in Poland. Though sometimes he may exaggerate certain moments in an opera, especially the orchestra part, though there may be many failings, still his talent is always able to bring the stage into close contact with the audience by means of the contagious rhythm of his baton. For quite some years past, Dołżycki has conducted almost all the operas in the repertory of the *Teatr Wielki*. The years of his most splendid success where those under the management of Emil Młynarski, that is, the period in which our opera stood on its proper level, and gave great artists of the measure of Dołżycki an opportunity to develop and show the whole scope of their talent. Especially has Dołżycki been noteworthy as the interpreter of Wagner's musical dramas. Here his emphasis on the orchestra part of an opera, noticeable in all performances directed by Dołżycki, is highly to be desired and reaches effects of beauty and brings out all the musical treasures with which Wagner endowed the instruments. It is, therefore, no wonder that Dołżycki, for his jubilee performance, chose one of the most magnificent operas of Wagner, *Tannhäuser*.

Unfortunately, his jubilee was held under such abnormal conditions as now prevail in our opera. The sacrifice of the whole operatic repertory for musical comedies and the very rare appearance of any serious opera, the atmosphere of business enterprise rather than of a temple of art, these are all elements utterly incompatible with a personality like Dołżycki's. We were, therefore, highly grateful to him for the opportunity of hearing once more Wagner's tremendous masterpiece.

Dołżycki put into his work his utmost energy, enthusiasm and understanding of Wagner's art, and succeeded in reaching many moments of rare beauty, especially in the overture. What a disappointment it must have been for him that on the day of his jubilee, after so many years of work, the Opera could not present *Tannhäuser* even passably. It appears that the too great emphasis on operetta that is characteristic of late has vitiated the company to such an extent that now there are now no artists prepared to sing Wagner. With the exception of Wanda Werńska, in a guest performance as *Elizabeth*, who sang the famous aria opening the second act with a power and beauty worthy of Wagner and Franciszka Platówna, in the role of Venus, there is nobody to praise. For lack of a suitable singer in the Warsaw Opera, Mr. S. Kowalski was invited from Vienna. Why just he was asked will always remain an insoluble problem. Not

only did his singing and lack of understanding of the part not give any artistic satisfaction, but rather continually irritated the audience for, every moment one had the feeling that the artist would not be able to finish his performance. It may have been stage fright, but when a guest appearance is announced, the audience, after all, has the right to demand at least a minimum. The other artists were entirely unprepared for their parts, which made itself evident especially in the absence of any acting as well as in the vocal weaknesses and continual dependence on Dołżycki. He, on his part, did his best to strike at least a spark of artistry and enthusiasm out of them, but handicapped by such ill preparation not even his intuition could avail anything. In general the whole performance had the air of a hurry-up job, and the stage directing of Zaleski was hardly more than a banal operatic stereotype.

After the performance the jubilee ceremonies began. The speakers expressed Warsaw's deep gratitude to Dołżycki for his work for the Polish opera as tireless as it has been fruitful. He was honoured with many wreaths and baskets of flowers, and applauded enthusiastically by the whole house packed to the last seat.

— Arno



Assassination. First act.
EICHLERÓWNA and JARACZ.

ASSASSINATION

The play, *Assassination*, by W. Somin belongs to the category of "theatrical sensations." The dramatic conflict developed by the author has as its primary aim the creation and intensification of the fear of the audience by skillfully varied doses of sensation and melodrama, so effective on the stage, and thrilling the public at large.

In *Assassination*, for example, a play in which besides the two actors, Bergman and his wife Iza, only the radio and telephone speak, the culminating point of the whole plot is the murder of the minister. Bergman, a socialist who by accident happened to be passing the spot at the exact time of the murder, and who, at the same time, is known for his fanatical political opinions, naturally begins to fear that suspicion may fall on his person, and so twists and

(Continued on page 6, col. 1.)

PRESS REVIEW

Robotnik writes that Hitler has recently made violent attacks in his speeches on Soviet Russia. This he has always done, but not to the same degree as at present.

Hitler in attacking Soviet Russia uses, as it were, a cipher under which we must understand the worker's movement and the democracy of the whole world. He wants — as he said himself at the meeting at Karlsruhe — to introduce into Europe the same order of things as in Germany. These intentions and wishes of Hitler assure him the sympathy of reactionists of all countries, nations and confessions.

Polonia, in a long article, discusses the German move on the Rhine, stating that the real object in not to attack France, but to guarantee herself against any attempt on the part of France or any other western country to come to the aid of Russia or other eastern neighbours of Germany.

Germany, in strengthening her forces on the Rhine, does not dream of attacking the west, for it would be difficult to gain anything there, but she thinks of her attack on the east — by this step greatly facilitated.

The *Press Agency* in Danzig writes that the recent decisions of the German Government regarding its foreign policy and its military occupation of the Rhineland has evoked greater activity among Hitlerites in West Poland, where illegal propaganda is being carried on.

Among the German population of Pomerania and Great Poland, a mass of illegal literature is being distributed, promising that the day is not far distant when the territories on the Vistula will return to the German state. All this literature is being printed outside Polish frontiers. There is no doubt that the centre of the Hitler movement in Poland lies in Danzig, and the illegal publications are printed in the area of the Free State and afterwards smuggled into Poland.

Czas protests against the increasing party discord and violent partisanship now prevalent in Poland.

While the Marshal lived, he kept everything in his iron hand, and one could be more at ease. But now that he has gone, this game of parties seems more dangerous. It is no longer an empty academic dispute, but in practice it leads in many cases to a struggle between the Government and the Community.

Czas then continues to say that the differences are more apparent than real, and it suggests that

people of good will belonging to one camp or the other ought constantly and perseveringly to point out in conversation and in writing the necessity of avoiding mutual irritation, of voicing the truth and correcting false statements. It would be advisable to establish a special organization in the manner of "United Poland" for the maintenance of mutual contacts between people of good will from both camps, with,

perhaps, its own press organ where each side would voice its opinions and would spread mutual confidence. It is not permissible to keep a certain category of people out of positions of trust, and the possibility should be opened to all those who give a guarantee of objective and civic thought though they may differ in their convictions.

Kurjer Polski, discussing the unfortunate incidents in Kraków, imputes the blame for what happened to communistic action, and finds that Minister Raczekiewicz rightly judged the case in his speech in the Sejm. According to the *Kurjer*,

Communism has penetrated even into the sphere of the intelligentsia as a popular fashion. . . . The excellent diagnosis as given by Minister Raczekiewicz has not been accompanied by any efforts aiming at the prevention of revolutionary or rather communistic germs from entering into our life. It has not been a question of acts of violence or terror, but simply of preventing open toleration and the spreading under the mantle of either progressive social watchwords, new economic doctrines. Such views are perhaps not yet in themselves communistic, but are preparing the ground for communism.

The best diagnosis, if not followed by therapeutics, which does not necessarily mean operation — leads to growth and increase of the illness, and sometimes even to violent outbreak.

Kurjer Warszawski discusses, in an article by General Sikorski, the international situation in connection with Germany's break with Locarno and the results it may have for Polish foreign policy.

We must differentiate the dangers that result from our strategic position and from the general international situation, which, in spite of difficulties issuing from it, may be put to advantageous use. But in this respect there is not much time to lose. We should lose our cause if we even renounce the rational independence of our policy at such an important moment.

Iskra quotes the Paris *L'Oeuvre* which brings news from Geneva that in the house of Ignace Paderewski in Morges a meeting took place between Witos and General Haller, the former leader of the Polish Army in France.

The conversation is said to have concerned the international position of Poland and the reaction of this position on the interior situation.

The result of the conversation was

The decision to unite all forces of the nation to overcome the crisis which constitutes a danger for the future of the country.

Iskra emphasizes that there is no confirmation of this report, and considers the telegram of *L'Oeuvre* to be a political manoeuvre.

Kurjer Poranny, writing of the late conflict in Kraków, says that the events there must deeply move the conscience of the community and evoke a series of important results. Concerning the question of the occupation strike, it writes:

We might make the reproach to the workers, fighting for the improvement of their existence, that in connecting with this fight the occupation of the factory or mine, they betray the legislation guaranteeing the freedom of striking, but not allowing the occupation of the premises or workshop. But indeed the so-called occupation strike has become a troublesome form of preventing the owner from disposing of his instruments of production. But, it must be added, this violent and regardless form of strike is today the only and last successful weapon in the hands of the workers.

Front Robotniczy has an article on the German anti-Jewish theory in which the author affirms that the object of the expounders of this theory is to distract attention from the social problem, and is a danger for the working classes.

For German nationalism, this anthropological idea has become a religion. The belief in the superiority of the nordic race gives the foundation to the imperialistic tendencies of the German nation to govern the world. And, therefore, this belief gains ground in Germany when the nordic race is relatively less represented and finds no access to the Scandinavian nations (Denmark, Sweden, Norway) where socialists rule and where the missionaries of Hitlerism have found no hearing among the masses.

This theory is in agreement with that voiced by the P.P.S.

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Art, Music, Literature

ASSASSINATION

(Continued from page 4, col. 3)

writes under the pressure of his nerve-racking psychological experiences. The audience, from the very beginning of the play, sees perfectly that the murderer is his wife, Iza, who, as it turns out later, was a former mistress of the minister and tried to blackmail him. It would seem that this certainty of the audience about the wife's guilt would deprive the play of that element of sensation which gave rise to it. Meanwhile, Sonim gives a tense atmosphere, is able to spread fear through the audience above all by his skill in catching the hero of the play, a perfectly innocent and likeable fellow, in a net of terrible suspicions and worries.

We must emphasize, however, that although the play has no great artistic pretensions, it is nevertheless good theatrical craftsmanship and has no little subtlety in the psychology of the two actors.

It is quite evident that the popularity of such a play as *Assassination* depends in a great way on the players. For this reason we may expect that the Teatr Ateneum will enjoy many a full house. Each performance is one great triumphant evening for Irena Eichlerówna and Stefan Jaracz. This is the first time we have seen them together. The splendid scale of their talents and stage-methods made us forget the sensationalism at the bottom of their experiences with the greatest concentration and emotion.

Jaracz was simply incomparable in expressing the psychology of a modest little political worker persecuted by circumstances. His words, his pain, and his tears were not a mere illusion, but the suffering of a living man.

Eichlerówna from the first moment gripped us with the expressiveness of her every word, with the perfect masking of her feelings after the murder, with the struggle between her conscience and her love. She was as if crushed under the weight of her secret. With every act her figure grew more tragic and painful until in the end she fairly convulsed our nerves with the final scene of confession and determination to commit suicide. This role once more proved that Eichlerówna is one of the most unusual and suggestive dramatic artists on our stage, and we trust that we shall have many more opportunities to admire and applaud her.

The discreet and intelligent stage-directing by Stanisława Perzanowska brought out the proper atmosphere of the play and was able to tone down the melodramatic moments to

the advantage of the psychological. At the same time, with such a pair of actors to work with, she was able to catch accents and fine points that enriched the author's work by more than one psychological element.

It is not for the doubtful stage values of the play but rather for the chance to see the phenomenal playing of Eichlerówna and Jaracz that the Teatr Ateneum will undoubtedly enjoy a long successful run. *Arno*



IRENA EICHLERÓWNA
in *Assassination*.

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LONDON LETTER

(Continued from page 1, col. 1)

years of rapid change, many have found it a real consolation to seek the abiding characters of English life in the pages of Dickens. Old men are coming forward with memories of the days when Charles Dickens gave public readings of his works. Mr. Pickwick, Mr. Winkle, Bob Sawyer, Serjeant Buzfuz and Mr. Jingle take the stage again a little ruffled by Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini, but in tune still with their own traditions.

Contemporary politics at home supply one more hint of changes to take place perhaps when the international horizon clears. On this occasion Lord Linlithgow, the new Viceroy of India, publicly expressed confidence, from his knowledge of Sir Samuel Hoare's work in the India Office, that before very long the ex-Foreign Secretary would be playing an even greater part in public than in the past. The hint only confirms what has been a general informed opinion ever since the collapse of the Hoare-Laval Plan. Sir Samuel Hoare is not, however, expected to return to the Foreign Office. Whatever the future of for-

eign policy - and in these days any prophecy would be rash - it is generally conceded that Mr. Anthony Eden made an able speech last week when he defended the London Proposals, and defined the Government's obligations under Locarno. The debate elicited the declaration that Eastern Europe was as much a subject of concern as Western Europe, but it is still true that the people as a whole, in Great Britain as elsewhere, are profoundly reluctant to enter into a war, and as for the actual turns of policy, it is equally true that Mr. Eden did not mention high hopes of collaboration with Italy.

We are, in fact, at this moment waiting for the new turn to be given to events by Herr Hitler's counter-proposals and perhaps by Signor Mussolini's declaration. Some are asking whether Mr. Eden's firm stand for Locarno was not the result of M. Flandin's hint that France and Germany might come to a direct agreement, a reversion to the policy of M. Laval which might lead to the unity of the European mainland, isolating Great Britain on one side and Russia on the other.

But it is recognized that very much depends just now upon the fate of the franc. For some time past the indications have been that the devaluation of the franc (or the revaluation of the dollar) would take place before stabilization could be discussed. The crux of the problem is to know whether, in the event of a devaluation of the gold currencies, London can again force up the sterling price of gold and so make another measure of devaluation necessary. Unless there are large unknown stocks of wheat somewhere this should prove difficult, for a rise in the sterling price of gold (in other words, a lowering of sterling) means now for the English industrial market an increased cost of wheat. But so far as is known the world's wheat surplus is effectively concentrated in Canada, and the policy of the Canadian Wheat Board seems to promise that those stocks will be released, at, if anything, higher prices than have been obtained hitherto. The conclusion is that the franc can safely be devalued because the pound is stabilized by force of circumstances. Yet it does not follow that the political or international difficulties of France will allow of that step being taken just at present. The economic factors, upon which so many of the political factors depend, are as complicated as ever.

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FRUITS OF THE NAVAL CONFERENCE

By Hector C. Bywater

Now that the Naval Conference is over, it is possible to forecast with some assurance the effect of its labours on the international position at sea. In the first place the system of quantitative limitation which has been in force since 1922 will expire at the end of this year, and theoretically there will be nothing to stop a "free for all" building race. Japan's absolute refusal to accept any extension of the ratio method killed all hope of quantitative limitation.

Nevertheless, there is believed to be no real danger of a big naval race. Japan, the only power likely to attempt it, is fatally handicapped by shortage of cash. She is already spending half her total income on war machinery, the farmers are groaning under oppressive taxation, and an attempt to increase the armaments budget would infallibly lead to grave domestic trouble, such as Japan was threatened with on the eve of the Washington Conference.

Thanks to their superior resources, America and Britain will have no difficulty in maintaining the present ratio as against the Japanese fleet. In the interests of Far Eastern peace it is not only desirable but imperative that they should do so. Beyond "saving face" in the eyes of her own and the other Asiatic peoples, Japan has gained nothing by her attitude at the Conference. She has merely hardened the resolve of other Powers with vital interests in the Pacific to sustain at all costs the existing balance of power.

On the material side the most important achievement of the Conference is the reduction of the cruiser standard to 8,000 tons, and the temporary suppression of those costly and vulnerable ships, the 10,000 ton eight-inch gun cruisers, which are not inaptly labelled "tinclads." As Britain proposes under her new defence plan to build 25 new cruisers within the next five years, the fixing of a lower tonnage limit will save her a large sum of money. On the other hand, the failure to effect a cut in the battleship standard of 35,000 tons is a disappointment to all the Conference Powers except America.

While it is realized that American naval opinion regards this tonnage as the lowest consistent with the offensive, defensive and cruising qualities required of a battleship which may have to fight on the other side of the Pacific, other naval experts consider that those qualities could be embodied in a smaller hull. The question, however, has been settled for some years to come, and as far as Britain is concerned, there is

no desire to reopen an old but purely technical controversy.

British policy has suffered a reverse by the failure of the Conference to impose any fresh restriction on submarines. These may still be built up to 2,000 tons, a figure exceeding the size of the largest German undersea cruiser of war time, and no check has been placed on the further expansion of foreign submarine fleets, notably the French, Italian and Japanese, which have already grown to formidable dimensions.

Whereas the previous treaties of Washington and London placed definite shackles on naval power, the new London covenant is far less drastic. However strictly it is observed by the signatories, they will not have to sacrifice an iota of combatant power at sea. At the same time, no agreement of a more binding nature is feasible at the present juncture of affairs, when the world is filled with rumours of war and the arsenals and navy yards of every Great Power are working double time. In the circumstances, it is amazing that any further advance, however slight, towards naval limitation should have been possible.

One excellent result of the Conference has been the smoothing out of all naval difference between the English-speaking Powers. It is now mutually recognised that their sea power policies are practically identical. Great significance attaches to Mr. Winston Churchill's speech on the naval budget in Parliament on March 16th in which he urged that no of-

fence should be taken by Britain if America ever finds it expedient to build above parity to meet some special contingency, or vice-versa. A few years ago such a suggestion would have evoked a roar of disapproval from the naval diehards in either country.

The new naval treaty necessarily leaves several vital problems untouched. What, for example, is to be the future of those naval bases in the Pacific, the development of which was arrested by the original Washington Pact? Will the end of that pact nine months hence be the signal for the creation of big American bases in the Philippines and Guam, and for counteraction by Japan in her nearby islands, including the mandated territories? If so, a dangerous situation must arise. Owing to Japan's abrupt withdrawal from the Conference table there was no opportunity of discussing this highly important question, which is thus left in the air.

Not the least valuable feature of the new treaty is its provision for abolishing the "hush hush" element in naval armaments. If, as seems probable, the pact is subscribed to by Germany and Russia, all the leading Powers except Japan must in future exchange in advance full information about their naval programmes, actual and projected, instead of conducting their preparations, as hitherto, more or less in secret.

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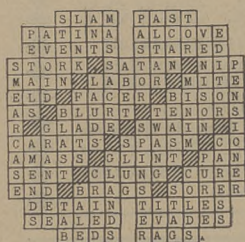


The famous Victor McLaglen is here again. This time he will be seen with Freddie Bartholomew in "Professional Soldier," a 20th-Century Fox Picture.



Ginger Rogers, the charming partner of Fred Astaire in their glorious RKO Radio picture "TOP HAT," opening on the 3rd inst. at the "EUROPA" theatre.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE

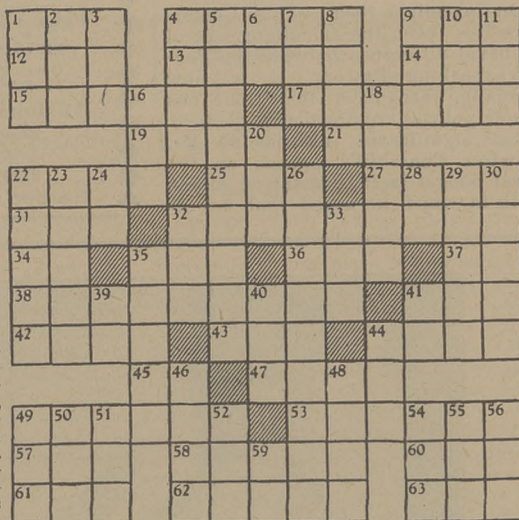


HORIZONTAL

1—To stroke, 4—To color, 9—To knock, 12—Self, 13—To go in, 14—Wing-like part, 15—To do again, 17—Flogged, 19—To seize, 21—Jumbled type, 22—Warbled, 25—Cushion, 27—Style of walking, 31—City in Finland, 32—Empress of France, 34—Behold, 35—Insane, 36—To perch, 37—Pronoun, 38—Attachment, 41—Worthless leaving, 42—Feat, 43—To observe, 44—War god, 45—By, 47—Poetic for "enough" 49—Song, 53—Fears, 57—Cool desert, 58—Free-for-all fight, 60—To ask alms, 62—Plants, 63—Moisture.

VERTICAL

1—Through, 2—To mature, 3—Toy, 4—A fruit, 5—Region



on opposite side of earth, 6—shake, 33—Pastry, 35—Honor, Pronoun, 7—Seine, 8—Snare, 9—Hurried, 10—A beverage, 41—Conjunction, 44—To inspire fear, 46—Scottish caps, 48—Metalliferous rock (pl.) 49—Baby's napkin, 50—High card, 51—Limb, 52—Welsh river, 54—To unite, 55—To expire, 56—To stitch, 59—Article (Fr.)

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CAPITOL

"Bohaterowie Sybiru," Bodo, Brodzisz
Polish Production

CASINO

"Modern Times," Charlie Chaplin
American Production

EUROPA

"Top Hat," Ginger Rogers, Fred Astaire
American Production

FILHARMONJA

"Her Highness Grandmother," Adele Sandrock
Austrian Production

MAJESTIC

"Marriage," Ray Francis
American Production

P A N

"Pan Twardowski"
Barszczewska, Brodniewicz
Polish Production.

RIALTO

"Black Angel," Merle Oberon,
American Production

STYLOWY

"The Mutiny on the Bounty," Laughton, Gable, Tone
American Production

SWIATOWID

"Milky Way," Harold Lloyd
American Production

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Immediate repairs are to be undertaken on the *Teatr Wielki*.

* * *

The Latvian Minister for Foreign Affairs visited Warsaw this week.

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